

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending. Claims 1-11 and 23-28 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement, which Applicants have traversed.

Claims 19-22 have been allowed. Claims 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 4,414,260 ("Rzepecki") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,591,382 ("Nahass").

For the reasons set forth in the Applicant's Response filed December 9, 2003, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 12-18 are nonobvious and patentable over the asserted Rzepecki and Nahass references. However, since claims 19-22 have been allowed, for the sole purpose of expediting the issuance of these claims into a patent and without surrendering any subject matter or acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, Applicants are hereby canceling claims 1-18 and 23-28 without prejudice and with the right to pursue in a subsequent application. As such only claims 19-22 remain pending.

As such, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested for these pending claims 19-22.

If there are any additional fees, please charge them to our firm Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Dated: August 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Barry Evans, Reg. No. 22,802
Albert B. Chen, Reg. No. 41,667
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 715-9100